



*Durham*  
*Workforce*  
*Development*  
*Newsletter*

*Good Things are Happening in Durham*

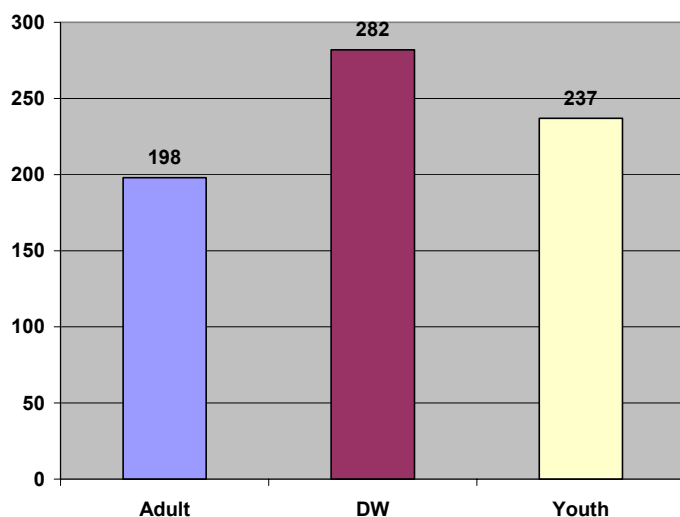
March 2004

Vol. 1, Iss. 3

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### PROGRAM STATISTICS

As of February 29, 2004, there are 685 participants being served in WIA programs. These include 198 in the adult worker program, 282 in the displaced workers program, and 237 in the youth program (47 older youth (19-21), and 188 younger youth (14-18)).



(Note: Program totals do not equal total WIA enrollment because some participants are enrolled in more than one program.)

#### **Department of Social Services**

The Department of Social Services is providing services to:

- 92 adult workers,
- 83 displaced workers
- 47 youth.

New enrollment (February):

- 3 adult workers
- 4 displaced workers
- 7 youth participants.

#### **Employment Security Commission**

The Employment Security Commission is providing continuing services to:

- 106 adult workers
- 198 displaced workers

#### **Durham Public Schools**

Durham Public Schools is providing services to 180 younger youth including 5 new enrollments in February.

#### **Center for Employment Training**

The Center for Employment Training is providing services to:

- 10 youth

#### **Training**

Of the 685 participants enrolled in WIA, 340 are currently enrolled in training. This includes:

- 135 adult workers
- 205 displaced workers

## **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

The January 2004 unemployment rate for Durham County was 4.3%, accounting for 5,405 people out of work. This is a decrease of 1.4% from the same time last year. This means that 1,703 more people were employed in January 2004 as compared to January 2003.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Durham County				
	2002		2003	
	Dec	Jan	Dec	Jan
Labor Force	125,133	125,669	125,512	126,665
Employed	118,242	118,561	120,222	121,260
Unemployed	6,891	7,108	5,290	5,405
Rate %	5.5%	5.7%	4.2%	4.3%
Source: NC Employment Security Commission				

## **CORPORATE LEVEL VISITS LOCAL AREA JOBLINK**

The local Durham JobLink office welcomed a visit by RTP's IBM, Drake Beam Morrin, the Department of Labor, Strategic Partnership, LLC and the NC Commission on Workforce Development on March 2, 2004. This visit was one of many across the state. The purpose of the visit was to observe the various types of JobLink offices and available core and intensive services within each JobLink (WIA, TAA, Veteran's services. Etc.). IBM is nationally known as a major customer for employment administration, Drake Beam Morrin is the local contractor for IBM's outplacement services. The local Durham JobLink office welcomed their interest and welcomed the opportunity to highlight JobLink's capability to handle corporate level employers and clients.

## **WIA STUDENTS RECEIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Several students from the Durham JobLink Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program

received Superior and Outstanding Achievement Awards in recognition of their academic achievements during the fall semester.

Students making the President's List were James Gregory, a Nursing major at Alamance Community College and Jevon Pinner also a Nursing major attending Durham Technical Community College.

Making the Dean's List were students Debra Foster, a Bio-Technology major attending Alamance Community College; Sandra Grady an Office Technology major and Susan Crabtree a Dental Technology major, both attending Durham Technical Community College. Students Grady and Foster are scheduled to complete their studies this summer and graduate in spring of 2005.

## **JOBLINK PARTNERS WITH DPS TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR WIA PARTICIPANT**

Helen Smith-Flores completed computer and English as a second language training with ComTech in the fall of 2003. Ms. Smith-Flores has been very enthusiastic about learning new skills and achieving tangible goals. She was referred by JobLink staff to a position with Durham Public Schools as a Group Leader (bilingual) in the after school program. In this position, she supervises, plans and leads activities for Hispanic/Latino children in an educational/recreational setting from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M. After her first two weeks of employment, Ms. Flores stated that it is a very rewarding job and an enjoyable challenge to work with these children.

## **EX-OFFENDER PROGRAM UPDATE!**

Since the arrival of the offender specialist at the JobLink center, located at 1105 Briggs Avenue, thirty-two ex-offenders have been assessed and served. Services have included resume-writing, job readiness skills, job-search assistance, and case management. Six out of the thirty-two ex-offenders have been placed in full-time employment through the new program.

The number of ex-offenders coming through the Employment Security Commission is rapidly increasing. The offender specialist is currently establishing relationships with public and private businesses in order to promote the opportunity for ex-offenders to become productive citizens and decrease the occurrence of recidivism. If you have any questions or comments please contact, Courtney McCollum at (919) 560-6880 ext.231. .

## **YOUTH COUNCIL RETREAT**

The Durham Youth Council held its annual retreat on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Downtown Durham Marriott. Thanks to Ken Lile, the chair of the Youth Council and Workforce Development Board member, for hosting and sponsoring the event at the Marriott.

Barbara Bergman, youth prime for the North Carolina Division of Employment and Training, started the day off with an overview of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the youth council's role. The information she presented was a refresher for some and new for others.

The second part of the retreat consisted of youth council agency members providing an overview of their agency's activities. They explained why they were on the Council and discussed issues they face dealing with the youth population.

One of the key aspects of the retreat was to reflect on the accomplishments the council has made over the past year and to determine the

focus for the new year. The youth council plans to take all the information gained during the retreat and begin developing strategies for the 2004-2005 program year. The next Youth Council meeting is April 20<sup>th</sup> 2004.

## **YOUTH RFP**

The Durham Workforce Development Board along with the City of Durham's Office of Economic and Employment Development (OEED) has requested proposal for youth program services for the 2004-2005 program year. The RFP is open until noon April 16, 2004. The bidder's conference took place on March 16, 2004 and answered questions and provided technical assistant.

## **WORKFORCE PLUS TRAINING**

Workforce Plus data entry training was conducted in February. The training was provided as part of a continuing effort to improve performance outcomes for WIA programs. The February training sessions consisted of initial and refresher training to WIA service providers.

Workforce Plus is the management information system the State of North Carolina has developed for WIA Title I B programs. The system is used by case managers to register participants, determine eligibility of clients to receive services, and to track and actively manage program participants.

## **THE DURHAM WORKFORCE STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS ENDS**

The RFP process for a Durham Workforce Strategic Plan, which began at the end of 2003, wrapped up this month. Five bidders attended the pre-proposal conference held on January 8, 2004 and ultimately, five proposals were submitted. A review committee was created and made up of individuals from the City of Durham, the Workforce Development Board, and Congregations Associations and Neighborhood (C.A.N.).

Once the proposals were scored, the two front runners were close enough in score to warrant a face-to-face presentation and Q&A session, which was held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at City Hall Plaza. The Center for Regional Competitiveness, based in Arlington, VA was unanimously chosen by

the review committee at the completion of this process.

The contract is awaiting review and approval by the City Council. Once the contract is approved and officially awarded, the contractor will have approximately one year to submit a final strategic plan for Durham.

The next step in the process is to identify the members of the Strategic Plan steering committee.

## **NEW SCHEDULE FOR NEWSLETTER**

The Durham Workforce Development Newsletter will be published every two months starting with the next issue in May 2004

## **Upcoming events**

### **MARCH MEETINGS**

- **Priority I Committee**  
Thursday March 25, 2004 at 3:30 P.M.  
Northgate Mall

### **APRIL MEETINGS**

- **Executive Committee**  
Wednesday April 7, 2004 at 8:30 A.M.  
JobLink/ESC
- **JobLink Committee**  
Thursday April 1, 2004 at 9:00 A.M.  
JobLink/ESC
- **Careers in Hospitality**  
Wednesday April 14, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.  
Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau
- **Priority III Committee**  
Thursday April 8, 2004 at 4:00 P.M.  
CCB
- **Youth Council**  
Tuesday April 20, 2004 at 9:15 A.M.  
Durham Marriott at the Civic Center
- **Workforce Partners**  
Thursday April 15, 2004 at 2:00 P.M.  
TBA
- **Priority I Committee**  
Tuesday April 27, 2004 at 3:30 A.M.  
Northgate Mall